

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EGYPT/US BUSINESS COUNCIL-PLANS FOR JOINT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REF: CAIRO 12462

1. IN ANSWER TO YOUR REQUEST FOR A BRIEF SUMMARY OF
JOINT IRANIAN-US CHAMBER ACTIVITIES, WE POINT OUT THAT
AN IRAN-US JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOES NOT EXIST AT THE
PRESENT TIME. MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR AN IRAN-US
JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL BUT AS THAT GROUP HAS NOT YET MET
NOR FORMULATED AN AGENDA FOR ITS FIRST MEETING WE DO NOT
KNOW WHETHER CREATION OF A JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL
BE AMONG THE ITEMS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS.

2. AN IRAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS BEEN IN
EXISTENCE FOR APPROXIMATELY 2-1/2 YEARS. MEMBERSHIP IS
COMPOSED OF BOTH AMERICAN AND IRANIAN BUSINESSMEN REPRESENTING
AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN IRAN OR IRANIAN
COMPANIES WHICH HAVE JOINT VENTURE, AGENCY OR OTHER
RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES. THIS GROUP IS AN
INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE OF THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, A JOINT CHAMBER AS THE IMPETUS FOR
ITS CREATION WAS SOLELY AMERICAN AND IT HAS NO OFFICIAL
GOI PARTICIPATION, SPONSORSHIP OR OTHER BACKING. IF A
JOINT CHAMBER IS DEEMED DESIRABLE BY THE IRAN-US JOINT
BUSINESS COUNCIL, IT PRESUMABLY WOULD BE CO-SPONSORED
BY THE IRAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER AND THE IRANIAN CHAMBER OF
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COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES, A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL

ASSOCIATION OF IRANIAN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE COMPAN-
IES.

3. SUMMARY OF IRAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

(A) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: TWELVE-MAN BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ONE-YEAR TERM (APRIL-MARCH) IRANIAN CALENDAR YEAR, INCLUDING PRESIDENT, VP, SECRETARY, TREASURER. BOTH AMERICANS AND IRANIANS SIT ON BOARD. FULL-TIME SALARIED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SEVERAL IRANIAN STAFF. HONORARY MEMBERS: AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE IRAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES.

(B) FINANCING: INITIAL FINANCING FROM CORPORATE DONATIONS. DUES ASSESSMENT AND REVENUE FROM ADVERTISING IN AND SALES OF YEARLY DIRECTORY "THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN IRAN", FORMERLY PUBLISHED BY THE EMBASSY, PROVIDE CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET.

(C) ACTIVITIES:
MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEMBERSHIP MEETING (TICKETS SOLD).
MONTHLY BOARD OF GOVERNORS BUSINESS MEETING.
PERIODIC LUNCHEON MEETINGS OF BOARD WITH AMBASSADOR, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE.
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
COUNSELING OF BUSINESS VISITORS.
COMPILATION OF INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS DIRECTORY.
SPECIAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES (E.G., REVIEW OF SOCIAL INSURANCE LAWS)
PUBLICATION OF SPECIAL DOCUMENTS (E.G., PAMPHLET ON HOW TO OBTAIN WORK PERMITS).
ARRANGES SPECIAL EVENTS (E.G., LUNCHEON MEETING FOR MEMBERS WITH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ).
REPRESENTATIONS TO GOI OFFICIALS ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS.
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